ATTORNEY GENERAL BULLOCK BOARD OF CRIME CONTROL CHAIR MIKE ANDERSON AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ROLAND M. MENA

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Montana Board of Crime Control Strengthening Local Public Safety

HELENA – Roland M. Mena, Executive Director of the Montana Board of Crime Control, on Thursday said that the Board has been awarded over six million dollars under President Obama's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

The Board of Crime Control is asking local and state entities to assist in prioritizing projects. The money must be used to enhance public safety and provide services to victims.

"Given the downturn in the economy, it's likely that we'll see an increase in crime," Attorney General Steve Bullock said. "Law enforcement agencies throughout the state will need additional resources and there is a lot more we can do to for crime victims, including the women and children victimized by domestic violence and sex crimes."

"Over the last few years Montana has experienced a downward decrease in federal funding negatively impacting law enforcement and public safety," said Mena. "Justice Assistance Grant funds secured by Senators Baucus and Tester under the Recovery Act are not only timely given the economic downturn, but will be a boost to Montana Law Enforcement who struggle to keep Montanans safe and protect our quality of life."

Following the intent of the Recovery Act, the Board has identified guiding principles such as balancing state and local interests, creating and/or preserving jobs, and expediting release of funds.

To learn more about the Board's implementation of Recovery Act funding go to: www.mbcc.mt.gov.